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# Foreign Crops and MARKETS



VOLUME 56

NUMBER 15

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

## L A T E   N E W S

All exports of foodstuffs from Brazil, including those already licensed, have been prohibited by the President of that country because of domestic shortages and rising prices.

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Exports of raw jute from the port of Chittagong, Pakistan, to some countries have been exempted from license, effective about March 16 until June 30, 1948, according to a notice issued by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Government of Pakistan, Karachi. The exemption applies to jute for export to the United States, Canada, the rest of the Americas, the Belgian and Portuguese monetary areas, the Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, and Japan. Territories forming part of the Sterling, French Franc and Dutch monetary areas, and Portuguese India are excluded.

Kutchā (loose) bales of jute can be exported, subject to license, to any country, and these licenses are freely granted. In Pakistan, the majority of the jute is baled in kutchā bales as there are only a few establishments at which jute can be bound in pucca (pressed) bales.

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## COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERSCANADA USING MORE  
MEXICAN COTTON

Imports of Mexican cotton into Canada have been increasing in recent years, with takings during the present season far ahead of any previous year. In the first five months (August-December) of the current season, Canadian imports of Mexican cotton were reported as 46,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) or 32.6 percent of the total, as compared to 32,000 bales for 12 months of the previous season and representing only 7.9 percent of the 1946-47 total.

Imports of American cotton during this 5-month period (1947-48) amounted to 72,000 bales and Brazilian, 22,000 bales. Thus for the first part of the 1947-48 season the United States is supplying only 50 percent of the Canadian raw cotton market.

In the prewar period Canada obtained practically her entire supply of American-type cottons from the United States. During the war heavy purchases of Brazilian cottons were made when shipping was available to move the cotton into Canada. In the postwar period, however, imports of Brazilian cotton into Canada have not been large.

There are no restrictions on the use of dollars for the purchase of United States cotton, and the Canadian cotton industry anticipates no difficulty in this respect. The trend toward greater use of Mexican cotton is attributed to lower prices demanded for it.

Cotton consumption in Canada during the calendar year 1947 was reported as 363,000 bales. This is a 1 to 2 percent decline from the 1945 and 1946 figures and considerably under the wartime peak of about 500,000 bales in 1942.

CANADA: Imports of Cotton by Countries  
(In bales of 500 pounds gross-weight equivalent)

Year beginning August 1	United States	Brazil	Mexico	Other	Total
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
	: <u>bales</u>	: <u>bales</u>	: <u>bales</u>	: <u>bales</u>	: <u>bales</u>
1934-38 average	: 278.8	: 1/ 1.3	: 2/	: 29.1	: 308.2
1939-40	: 458.7	: 11.3	: 0	: 17.7	: 487.7
40-41	: 189.0	: 254.9	: 2/	: 19.5	: 463.4
41-42	: 294.0	: 270.6	: .1	: 48.5	: 613.2
42-43	: 318.3	: 28.8	: 6.7	: 17.8	: 371.6
43-44	: 325.6	: .2	: 6.2	: 3.6	: 335.6
1944-45	: 325.8	: 10.4	: 25.6	: 3.9	: 365.7
45-46	: 345.9	: 14.6	: 40.1	: 8.7	: 409.3
46-47	: 346.6	: 20.7	: 32.2	: 4.2	: 403.7
47-48 (5 months)	: 72.4	: 21.6	: 46.1	: 1.2	: 141.3

Compiled from Trade of Canada by months. 1/ One year only. 2/ If any, included in "other countries".



# ARGENTINE COTTON ACREAGE UP SIX PERCENT

The third official report places Argentina's 1947-48 cotton acreage (planted area) at 1,037,000 acres compared with a third estimate of 980,000 acres last year. Private sources forecast 1947-48 production at 367,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) against a final estimate of 334,000 bales in 1946-47.

Yields are expected to show only slight improvement over the poor yields reported last year. Heavy damage by locusts early in the season and drought conditions that lasted until late in November were only partly offset by adequate rainfall early in January.

Cotton exports have been subject to governmental restriction since July 1946 as a result of three small crops in succession. No exports were reported since July 1947 and only 30,000 bales were exported during January-July 1947.

Stocks of cotton on hand when the new season began March 1, 1948 were estimated at 221,000 bales compared with 274,000 a year ago. Consumption during the year ended March 29, 1948 amounted to 371,000 bales which is about equal to the preliminary estimate for the current crop. For this reason it is not likely that any significant quantities of Argentine cotton will be exported in 1948, although Paraguayan cotton moving through Argentina probably will continue to appear on Argentine export trade records as Argentine cotton. About 3,000 bales of cotton were imported into Argentina (from all sources) in 1947-48 for consumption.

(Continued on Page 266)

## GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

### SURINAM'S RICE CROP REDUCED BY DROUGHT

The 1947 rice harvest of Surinam was reduced by lack of rainfall to less than one-half the output of the preceding year. About 1,029,000 bushels (30 million pounds milled) were produced compared with 2,547,000 bushels (75 million pounds) in 1946, and with prewar production of 1,703,000 bushels (50 million pounds). Not only is a surplus unavailable for export in 1948, but supplies are less than that country's normal requirements. From the 1946 crop, the surplus was estimated at 20 million pounds in terms of milled rice. The harvest ends in December.

In view of the expected shortage the Government has fixed the price of rice. Growers will be paid \$2.64 per 100 pounds for paddy, wholesalers may charge \$4.21 per 100 pounds for cleaned rice containing 60 percent broken grains, and retailers may sell for \$9.62 per 100 pounds to the public. Rice is the main staple of the peoples diet, the per capita consumption being among the highest in the Western Hemisphere.

### URUGUAYAN RICE PRODUCTION GAINS; EXPORTS PERMITTED

Uruguay's rice production again is expected to show a marked increase over that of the preceding year. The 1947-48 harvest is forecast at 2,009,000 bushels (59 million pounds milled) compared with 1,723,000 bushels (50 million

pounds) in 1946-47, and with 866,000 bushels (25 million pounds) during the pre-war (1935-36/39-40) average period. This year's plantings, estimated at 29,000 acres, have almost doubled since 1945, when the record at that time of 16,000 acres were sown. Although the crop has increased in recent years, shortages of other food crops have caused a marked rise in consumption, and rice shipments have not gained.

Exports during 1948, however, may be larger than in previous years. The exportation of 15 million pounds has been authorized from the old crop, and the total surplus is estimated from 22 to 33 million pounds, including carry-over supplies.

URUGAY: Rice production, trade, and utilization,  
averages 1931-45, annual 1946-48

Year	Acreage: planted: 1,000 bushels	Yield: per acre: Bushels	Production		Net		Apparent utilization Million pounds
			Rough 1,000 bushels	Milled Million pounds	Imports Million pounds	Exports Million pounds	
Average:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
1931-35	3	67.0	201	6	11	-	17
1936-40	13	66.6	866	25	-	4	21
1941-45	13	63.6	827	24	-	1	23
1946	21	67.8	1,423	42	-	2	40
1947	25	68.9	1,723	50	-	a/ 15	35
1948 b/	29	69.3	2,009	59	-	a/ 18	41

Compiled from official sources, except as noted.

a/ Export surplus. b/ Unofficial forecast.

(Continued on Page 268)

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

DOMINICAN COFFEE

EXPORTS LOWER

Exports of green and roasted coffee from the Dominican Republic, expressed in terms of green coffee, totaled 198,000 bags during 1947. This was considerably below 1946 exports of 254,000 bags, but above average 1935-39 exports of 187,000 bags.

Since 1940, the United States has been the principal destination for Dominican green coffee, instead of Europe, which before the war took about 75 percent of the coffee exported from the Dominican Republic. Nearly all the roasted coffee is shipped to Puerto Rico. Practically no roasted coffee was exported before the war.

The 1947-48 coffee harvest in the Dominican Republic is now estimated at between 225,000 to 250,000 bags, which would be much less than the previous season's crop of 343,000 bags. Drought in the Ciboa Valley has reduced the outturn. Quality of the 1947-48 crop, however, is reported to be good.

(Table on following page)



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Exports of coffee,  
calendar year 1947 with comparisons

Destination	Average		1945	1946	1947 a/
	1935-39	1940-44			
	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags
United States.....	38,953	140,491	261,408	130,316	132,945
Other W. Hemisphere.....	6,391	13,663	23,095	11,783	2,465
Europe.....	140,872	2,911	9,371	29,053	15,351
All others.....	818	514	1,478	2,800	1,302
Total green coffee...	187,034	157,579	295,352	173,952	152,063
Roasted and ground coffee:					
on green basis b/	34	4,663	10,798	79,627	46,095
Total	187,068	162,262	306,150	253,579	198,158

Official sources of the Dominican Republic.

a/ Preliminary. b/ It is estimated that roasted coffee equals 82 percent by weight of the green coffee.

### LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

#### LARGE STOCKS OF CARPET

##### WOOL IN CHINA

Large stocks of wool of the grade used by United States carpet manufacturers are reported as now lying at collection points in the interior, according to a survey recently made by the American Embassy at Shanghai.

The collection centers are Hsining, and Lanchow in Kansu Province also at Ninghsia in Ninghsia Province on the upper Yellow River. Difficulties arise in transporting such stocks to Tientsin. Stocks in the far interior can only be obtained by barter at present, and the method of financing such business is a problem still to be solved, owing to the lengthy period of time involved in obtaining consumer goods for exchanging for wool. Interest on the money involved in this exchange and in shipping the wool to Tientsin at interest rates of 20 to 30 percent per month represents an enormous financing cost.

The usual method of getting these wools to Paotow, the terminus of the Peiping-Suiyuan Railway, would have to be reorganized, possibly by air. Some wool has gone to Paotow and limited amounts have moved by rail to Tientsin, a distance of about 800 miles. All along the way heavy adulterations occur by wetting the wool and throwing in dirt and manure. Shaking the wool by hand at Tientsin yields about 55 percent wool.

The obtaining of wool at present is a matter of dealing exclusively with Chinese Army authorities (or their agents) at Tientsin for given quantities of wool guaranteed to yield 55 percent after being shaken by hand, to be delivered at Tientsin with delivery dates uncertain. Holders of wool in the interior are reluctant to accept Chinese National currency, preferring to hold their wool as a hedge against mounting inflation. Some regional chieftains will accept only Chinese silver dollars (now almost unobtainable) or consumer goods for wool or other products leaving their areas.

Wool arrivals at Tientsin for the balance of 1948 are expected to be small, representing only a small fraction of prewar. Quantities may well aggregate



less than in 1947 when Tientsin exports to the United States amounted to only 750,000 pounds of hand-shaken wool as against approximately 48 million pounds (or 30 million pounds, clean scoured) shipped in 1927, the best prewar year.

United States statistics show that seven million pounds of free and dutiable carpet wool entered the United States from China for consumption in 1947. Preliminary statistics of imports of unmanufactured wool for consumption, or for bonded warehouses in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, according to importers' declarations show that in the first two and a half months of 1948 approximately 2 million pounds of wool (actual weight) entered from China.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS  
(Continued from Page 262)

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS  
ON FOREIGN MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets, converted at current rates of exchange:

COTTON: Spot prices of certain foreign growths  
and qualities in specific markets

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1948	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		:Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good .....	4-1	: 99.05 lbs.	: Tallari	: 88.00:	73.42
Ashmouni, F.G.F. ....	"	: "	: "	: 82.00:	68.42
Giza 7, Good .....	"	: "	: "	: 90.00:	75.10
Giza 7, F.G.G. ....	"	: "	: "	: (not quoted)	
Karnak, Good .....	"	: "	: "	: 105.00:	87.62
Karnak, F.G.F. ....	"	: "	: "	: (not quoted)	
Bombay		:Candy			
Jarila, Fine .....	"	: 784 lbs.	: Rupee	: 612.00:	23.55
Broach, Fine .....	"	: "	: "	: 802.00:	30.86
Sind American, Fine .....	"	: "	: "	: (not quoted)	
Punjab " 289-F, Fine	"	: "	: "	: (not quoted)	
Kampala, East African .....	"	: "	: "	: (not available)	
Buenos Aires		:Metric ton			
Type B .....	4-2	: 2204.6 lbs.	: Peso	: 2,810.00:	37.95
Lima		:Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5 .....	4-1	: 101.4 lbs.	: Sol	: 139.50:	28.75
Pima, Type 1 .....	"	: "	: "	: (not quoted)	
Recife		:Arroba			
Mata, Type 5 .....	4-2	: 33.07 lbs.	: Cruzeiro	: 150.00:	24.68
Sertao, Type 5 .....	"	: "	: "	: 155.00:	25.50
Sao Paulo		: "			
Sao Paulo, Type 5 .....	"	: "	: "	: 171.50:	23.22
Torreón		:Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16" ..	"	: 101.4 lbs.	: Peso	: 167.00:	33.90

Compiled from weekly cables from representatives abroad.

# SISAL SITUATION IMPROVES IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA

The 1947 sisal production in British East Africa is estimated at 133,835 long tons compared with 133,842 tons in 1946 and 143,900 tons in the peak production year of 1945. Production in 1947 exceeded an earlier estimate of only 124,000 long tons, which was about equal to the prewar average, by about 8 percent. The larger quantity resulted from an improved labor situation, especially in Kenya and Uganda. Although additional machinery is needed, production in 1948 may exceed that in 1947 by 2,000 or 3,000 tons, provided the labor situation continues to improve.

## BRITISH EAST AFRICA: Sisal production by territories for the calendar years 1945-1947

Territories	1945	1946	1947
	: Long tons	: Long tons	: Long tons
Tanganyika.....	112,218	106,806	105,548
Kenya and Uganda a/.....	31,682	27,036	28,287
British East Africa.....	143,900	133,842	133,835

Source: Kenya Deputy Sisal Controller. a/ No definite statistics are available for production in Uganda, but it represents roughly 3 percent of that in Kenya.

Nearly 26 percent of the 1947 crop was classed as grade 1, and less than 9 percent was classed as tow and ungraded. More than 55 percent of the Tanganyika sisal and about 41 percent of the Kenya and Uganda production were graded 2 or better.

All British East African sisal production in recent years has been sold under contract to the British Ministry of Supply which allocated surplus quantities to other countries. That contract has been extended until June 30, 1948. After that time a new contract will become effective reserving for the United Kingdom's requirements 55,000 long tons a year and leaving any production above that quantity, probably less than two-thirds of the total crop, to be sold on an open market basis.

Exports of sisal from British East Africa decreased to 117,549 long tons of sisal and tow in 1947 compared with 135,712 in 1946 and 140,166 in 1945. Exports to the United States decreased to 750 long tons compared with 11,095 in 1946 and 51,117 in 1945. The decrease in exports to the United States since 1945 was even greater than the decrease in total exports, being partly offset by a large increase to Canada.

## BRITISH EAST AFRICA: Sisal exports, by countries, for the calendar years 1945-1947 (in long tons)

Destination	1945	1946	1947			
	Total	Total	Sisal	Tow	Other	Total
United States.....	51,117	11,095	0	750	0	750
United Kingdom.....	70,824	84,855	70,748	4,283	538	75,569
Australia.....	6,904	11,450	5,050	1,900	0	6,950
Canada.....	0	24,625	24,950	525	274	25,749
South Africa.....	603	2,437	3,665	477	0	4,142
India.....	8,901	550	2,955	500	0	3,455
Others.....	1,817	700	934	0	0	934
Total.....	140,166	135,712	108,302	8,435	812	117,549

Source: Kenya Deputy Sisal Controller.



BELGIAN COTTON  
SITUATION

Mill consumption of raw cotton in Belgium reached a new postwar peak in the quarter ending January 31, 1948, attaining an annual rate of 450,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight) per year.

This is 25 percent higher than normal prewar consumption. However, because of exchange controls in other countries that impose restrictions on imports of cotton textiles, the Belgians recently have been having difficulties in finding export markets for their cotton products. In the prewar period, Belgium exported from 40 to 50 percent of her cotton-textile production. Belgian production of cotton textiles now has been above the normal prewar rate for more than a year. The domestic market is well supplied and rationing was discontinued December 1, 1946. Therefore, to maintain the present high level of production, the Belgians must depend to a large extent on the export markets to dispose of a major share of their cotton-textiles.

Despite the increased consumption, the use of American cotton continues to decline. In the quarter ending January 31, 1948, American cotton comprised only 25 percent of total consumption and accounted for less than 20 percent of the 215,000 bales of raw cotton imported during August-December 1947.

The dollar shortage in Belgium late in 1947 forced the Government to re-establish currency controls covering purchases of nonessential items in the United States. Cotton was not included in these restrictions but imports undoubtedly were affected to some extent by the dollar shortage.

In recent months, Belgian imports of Indian cotton have been increasing and during the November-January period were almost double those of American cotton. Imports of Brazilian cotton also have been substantial since the signing of the Commercial Treaty between Brazil and Belgium in May 1946. Brazil now supplies about 15 percent of total Belgium cotton imports. In recent months, there also has been a marked increase in Belgian imports of Egyptian cotton. This followed the acceptance by the Egyptian Government in late 1947 of the Belgian offer to exchange Egyptian cotton against Belgian products. The Belgian Congo is the remaining principal supplier of the Belgian raw cotton market.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS  
(Continued from Page 264)CANADA INCREASES INITIAL  
WHEAT PAYMENT

Growers in Canada have had their initial wheat payment increased by 20 cents per bushel, making the present payment \$1.55 per bushel for top grade wheat, basis in store Fort William/Port Arthur or Vancouver. Through the system of participation certificates in force, producers will continue to share in profits accruing from the Wheat Board's export sales.

The increase announced by the Board became effective April 1 and applies on all deliveries from producers retroactively to August 1, 1945.

Under the existing scheme, after expenses are paid, all profits on sales are placed in a pool for the growers' benefit. The fund is to be distributed after the termination of the Pool on July 31, 1950.

#### AUSTRALIA'S 1947 WHEAT EXPORTS BELOW PREWAR AVERAGE

Australia's exports of wheat and flour (in wheat equivalent) amounted to 46 million bushels for the marketing season ended November 1947. Exports at that level were well below the pre-war average of 105 million bushels but were slightly above the average for the five preceding seasons despite the considerably below-average crop harvested in 1946-47. The exports amounted to 40 percent of the production of 116 million bushels.

Of the total, wheat amounted to 12 million bushels, or 26 percent of the total, with flour the equivalent of 34 million bushels of grain. More than half of the wheat went to India, more than a third to New Zealand, and most of the remainder to Southern Rhodesia and Trinidad.

Flour shipments went to many more countries than did wheat. Ceylon and Malaya together accounted for 46 percent of the flour takings, with the United Kingdom and Mauritius, the next ranking countries, together taking another 21 percent. Other important destinations for flour moving from Australia during the past season were Hong Kong, Burma, Egypt, China, French Indo-China, Pacific Islands, and Greece.

In contrast with the poor 1946-47 wheat outturn, Australia's current crop, estimated at 228 million bushels, is expected to provide a balance of 144 million bushels for export after domestic needs and carry-over requirements are filled. Approximately one-half of this total available for export is expected to move during the first 6 months of 1948.

(Continued on page 273)

#### FATS AND OILS

##### FRENCH WEST AFRICAN PEANUT OUTPUT LARGEST SINCE PREWAR

With the completion of the French West African marketing season, official sources estimate 1947-48 peanut sales at 531,800 short tons, 457,400 of which originated in Senegal, 52,900 in Niger, 13,200 in Sudan, and 8,300 in Dahomey. The area planted to peanuts in Senegal (the only Colony reported) amounted to 1,730,000 acres. This season's crop was apparently the largest since before the war, at which time French West Africa ranked third among the peanut producing countries of the world and second as an exporter.

FRENCH WEST AFRICA: Peanut a/ sale, 1947-48 with comparisons.

Colony	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48
	Short	Short	Short	Short	Short
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
Senegal.....	309,941	255,815	394,436	401,961	457,455
Ivory Coast.....	1,653	5,556	3,384	6,345	--
Dahomey.....	1,197	1,268	2,712	6,442	8,267
Niger.....	8,389	15,432	10,240	31,121	52,910
Sudan.....	5,512	9,149	3,748	20,338	13,228
Togo.....	4,985	5,544	7,121	--	--
Total.....	331,677	292,764	421,641	466,207	531,800

Compiled from official sources. a/ Peanuts in the shell.



French West African economy is dependent upon peanuts, the export of which has assumed even greater importance today because of the universal shortage of vegetable oils. The Government, through research and experiment, is attempting to improve the method of cultivation. Some improvement is necessitated by the limited amount of arable soil. If a less soil-exhausting production scheme is not initiated, large tracts of land will soon lose their fertility. The importance of the peanut for both the welfare of this area and the world supply of vegetable oils makes the solution of this problem imperative.

Senegal peanuts are planted in late June and harvested in November and December as it is only in the rainy months that crops can flourish in this Colony. Seed for planting is loaned to farmers by the Societes de Prevoyance (Welfare Societies), payment for which is in the form of seed at the rate of 100 kilograms (220 pounds) for every 80 (160) borrowed. Migratory workers from Sudan, Upper Gambia, and Upper Guinea move into Senegal every spring to help plant and harvest the peanuts. The number of workers fluctuates from year to year, depending on the amount of rain the previous season and crop prospects of the current year. In prewar years, the "navetanes", as they are called, numbered from 60,000 to 85,000.

Recently an experimental center was set up by the Agricultural Service at Kaffrine in an effort to stimulate production. A tract of 37,000 acres is being used in a system of rotation with peanuts grown for one year, millet for a year and the land lying fallow one year. Although shelling, weeding, and harvesting are still done by hand, machinery will do the ploughing, sowing and hoeing this year. The experiment probably will be extended ultimately to other available land. By studying the soil already under cultivation and by fertilization, an attempt is being made to combat the problem of land exhaustion. A mission of agricultural experts has recently arrived in Senegal to study the possibility of extending this mechanized type of production.

To prevent premature marketing, the selling season is opened by Government decree. The 1946-47 season was closed on April 4, 1947. The 1947-48 peanut marketing season was opened on December 8, 1947, for most of Senegal. The Government also establishes conditions of trade, sends out inspectors to maintain standards of crop quality, and sets the official price. The present rate to the producer for peanuts in the shell, as set by the Minister of National Economy in March 1947, is 7 Colonial French African francs per kilogram (4.54 cents per pound, prior to January 1948; 2.52 after January 1948). This constitutes a 17 percent raise over the previous price of 6 CFA francs a kilogram (3.89 cents per pound, prior to January 1948; 2.16 after January 1948. A decree of December 10, 1947, established prices f.o.b. port of embarkation for shelled peanuts exported in the 1947-48 season. These range from 25,704 francs per metric ton (\$185.00 per short ton) to 27,000 francs (\$194.00), depending on the type of peanuts. Export prices for the 1946-47 harvest ranged from 11,500 francs (\$149.00) to 12,232 (\$159.00). The present prices would be much higher on a free market, and without Government restrictions exporters could sell on foreign markets. In view of the recent devaluation of the franc and the strong position of peanuts on the market, it is likely that some upward adjustment of the price will be made soon.

(table on following page)

## FRENCH WEST AFRICA: Peanut exports, 1947

Country of destination	In the shell	Shelled	Total in the shell
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
France.....	126	192,171	288,383
Algeria.....	369	3,327	5,359
Morocco.....	-	10,074	15,111
Norway.....	-	3,311	4,966
Nigeria a/.....	5	2,344	3,521
Others.....	-	109	164
Total.....	500	211,336	317,504

Compiled from official sources.

a/ Likely destined for France or French colonies.

Prior to 1932 peanuts were exported either shelled or in the shell; since 1932 the tendency has been to export shelled peanuts and peanut oil.

The present shortage of vegetable oils in the Colony has given added importance to the manufacture of peanut oil. This product was formerly used exclusively in Dakar in making soap, but palm oil is now largely used for this purpose. From the 1946-47 harvest, 110,000 tons of shelled peanuts were sold to Senegal peanut oil factories, from which 47,000 tons of oil were produced. Of this quantity 9,900 tons were kept for local consumption and 37,000 were exported to other colonies and to France. From the 62,000-ton oilcake production, 12,000 were used in French West Africa and 50,000 were sent to France and North Africa. Oil manufacturers, anxious to increase their output, were dissatisfied with their portion (34 percent on 111,000 tons) of the 1947-48 harvest. They claim discrimination in favor of Metropolitan and North African interests. Whether the factories can work full-time with this curtailed quota remains to be seen. Locally it is hoped that the factories will be granted a proportionally larger amount in 1948 with a guarantee of 154,000 tons (in shells) already pledged by the Government. The retail price for a liter of peanut oil in Dakar, where it is used for cooking purposes, is 40 francs a (16.00 cents per pound.)

In 1947 French West Africa exported 211,336 tons of shelled peanuts, of which 192,171 tons went to France, and 500 tons of peanuts in the shell (126 to France). This would be a total of approximately 317,500 tons of nuts in the shell or less than half the 1935-39 average exports.

The world-wide difficulty in obtaining sufficient vegetable oils makes the immediate future of peanuts promising in French West Africa. The 1947-48 harvest was unmarred by any important insect ravages or plant diseases. Export difficulties have arisen in Niger, however, because of the railroad strike which started in October 1947. Arrangements are being made with the British to ship the peanuts through Nigeria. Another problem is the extensive and universal exploitation that has already depleted the soil in sections of Northern Senegal. In view of this, a far-sighted policy, combining modern methods of production and soil conservation, should be instituted to insure the economic stability of French West Africa.



# NETHERLANDS INDIES PALM INDUSTRY MAKING PROGRESS

Reports from the palm oil producing areas of Sumatra's east and south coasts are encouraging. On the east coast 18 oil palm estates are again in the hands of the original owners, and the production of palm oil is forecast at 60,000 short tons for 1948. Before World War II, 98 percent of the total palm-oil output of the Netherlands Indies, about 285,000 tons, was produced in Sumatra.

Sumatra's palm-oil exports totaled 827 tons in January. Exports averaged 213,700 tons during 1935-39. The Netherlands Government is reported to have entered into a contract with an Amsterdam firm for the delivery of 16,500 tons of palm oil at a price of 1,600 gulden per metric ton (\$546.50 per short ton) c.i.f. Netherlands. The f.o.b. price, Sumatra, is approximately 1,250 gulden per metric ton (\$427.00). The contract also calls for delivery of 2,200 to 3,300 tons of palm kernels at 550 gulden per ton (\$187.90) c.i.f. or 350 to 450 gulden (\$119.50 to \$153.75) f.o.b. The total transaction involves about 13,700,000 gulden (\$5,159,000).

## ARGENTINE ANIMAL FAT EXPORTS SHOW SHARP DECLINE IN JANUARY

Argentine animal fat (except lard) exports of 4,582 short tons in January were 16 percent smaller than in the same month of last year. There were no lard shipments reported. Lard production probably has declined as a result of the decrease in hog numbers and the comparatively small number of commercial slaughterings in 1947.

### ARGENTINA: Tallow and cattle fat exports, January 1948 with comparisons (Gross weight)

Country of destination:	Average	1946	1947	January	
	1935-39			1947	1948
	Short	Short	Short	Short	Short
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
North America:					
Mexico.....	11	6,429	659	--	--
Others.....	10 319	3,518	814	--	466
Total.....	10,330	9,947	1,473	--	466
South America.....	1,914	2,589	4,807	1,546	305
Europe:					
Belgium.....	2,974	761	1,596	201	400
France.....	937	2,572	1 238	--	2,831
Italy.....	2,082	1,017	3,481	--	13
Netherlands.....	7,875	1,120	2,988	1,245	62
Sweden.....	1,695	714	1,883	1,691	--
Switzerland.....	1,133	4,026	1,832	185	244
United Kingdom.....	17,903	5,380	19,378	29	260
Others.....	18,563	733	10,904	461	1
Total.....	52,662	16,323	43,300	3,812	3,811
China.....	102	--	72	67	--
Soviet Union.....	--	7,355	4,508	--	--
Others.....	232	13	589	56	--
Grand total.....	65,240	36,227	54,749	5,481	4,582

Compiled from official sources and consular reports.

# UNITED STATES EXPORTS OF SPECIFIED FATS AND OILS

The following table shows United States exports of specified fats and oils during January-February 1948, with comparisons.

UNITED STATES: Exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds,  
January-February 1948, with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1946	1947	January-February 1947	1948
Soybeans.....	1,000 bu.	a/ 4,793	2,906	1,683	362	973
Soybean oil:						
Refined.....	lb.	b/ 6,467	72,583	38,450	4,412	13,773
Crude.....	"		13,228	69,130	4,778	8,753
Coconut oil:						
Refined.....	"	3,789	935	5,691	418	4,489
Crude.....	"	10,442	47,366	52,849	19,154	2,053
Cottonseed oil:						
Refined.....	"	4,793	5,857	10,942	1,076	12,437
Crude.....	"	1,515	244	901	10	1,489
Linseed oil.....	"	1,280	1,625	7,721	140	1,947
Peanuts:						
Shelled.....	"	b/ 452	61,043	211,010	51,495	79,445
Not shelled....	"		7,066	18,681	7,173	1,788
Cooking fats.....	"	2,111	11,424	3,582	865	616
Lard.....	"	165,636	430,682	354,184	63,834	48,687
Oleomargarine....	"	180	50,483	19,954	5,927	1,456
Tallow:						
Edible.....	"	b/ 1,651	4,151	601	24	66
Inedible.....	"		6,472	55,051	2,875	3,094

Compiled from official sources.

a/ Average of less than 5 years. b/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation.

## GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

(Continued from Page 269)

### CANADA AUTHORIZES LIMITED OATS AND BARLEY EXPORTS

Canada recently authorized the export of limited quantities of oats and barley during the remainder of the current marketing season. There has been a virtual embargo on these grains since the reduced outturns, particularly of oats, were harvested.

The present order emphasizes that limited quantities of these grains may be exported to any destination only if offered for human consumption within the International Emergency Food Committee's allocations. All sales are subject to Wheat Board approval and must be made for payment in United States funds, except sales to destinations in the Sterling area.



TOBACCOSOUTH AFRICA HAS RECORD  
TOBACCO PRODUCTION

As a result of higher acreages, and favorable weather conditions in some growing districts, the 1947-48 tobacco production in the South African countries of Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, and the Union of South Africa is estimated above the output in any previous year. In recent years about 50 percent of the production of the above countries has been exported principally to the United Kingdom and other European countries. It can be expected, therefore, that the large 1947-48 production will result in higher exports, which will offer increased competition in foreign markets for American leaf.

The 1947-48 production in the countries indicated above is estimated at 142.5 million pounds as compared with the 1946-47 production of 126.6 million and the 5-year average 1941-42/1945-46 of 94.5 million pounds. The most significant increases occurred in the production of flue-cured leaf in Southern Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa. An increase in flue-cured production also occurred in Northern Rhodesia but the estimated 1947-48 production of this type in Nyasaland is below the 1946-47 harvest. The combined production of fire-cured leaf shows a decrease from 1946-47. The combined 1947-48 production of all other types, including Turkish, Burley, and other air-cured leaf showed no changes from the previous year.

SOUTH AFRICA: Tobacco production in Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, and the Union of South Africa  
1947-48, 1946-47 and 5-year average 1941-42/1945-46

Type of Leaf	: Southern Rhodesia	: Northern Rhodesia	: Nyasaland	: Union of South Africa	: Total 4 Countries
	: Million pounds	: Million pounds	: Million pounds	: Million pounds	: Million pounds
<u>Flue-cured</u>					
Average 1941-42/1945-46	: 39.5	: 2.5	: a/ 2.4	: 10.1	: 142.5
1946-47	: 57.9	: 3.5	: 3.0	: 12.9	: 77.3
1947-48	: 70.0	: 5.0	: 2.5	: 20.8	: 98.3
<u>Fire-cured</u>					
Average 1941-42/1945-46	: 0.7	: -	: a/ 15.9	: 16.6	: 33.2
1946-47	: 1.0	: -	: 20.5	: 16.1	: 37.6
1947-48	: 1.0	: -	: 15.0	: 16.5	: 32.5
<u>Other Types</u>					
Average 1941-42/1945-46	: 3.1	: -	: a/ 3.1	: 0.6	: 6.8
1946-47	: 4.7	: 1.0	: 5.5	: 0.5	: 11.7
1947-48	: 4.0	: 1.5	: 5.3	: 0.9	: 11.7
<u>Totals</u>					
Average 1941-42/1945-46	: 43.3	: 2.5	: a/ 21.4	: 27.3	: 94.5
1946-47	: 63.6	: 4.5	: 29.0	: 29.5	: 126.6
1947-48	: 75.0	: 6.5	: 22.8	: 38.2	: 142.5

a/ Four year average.

Source: For Southern Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa latest official estimates; Northern Rhodesia official estimates 1946-47 and averages, 1947-48 trade estimates; Nyasaland 1947-48 and 1946-47 trade estimates, averages official estimates.

The expansion in flue-cured acreage and production resulted from high prices for the 1946-47 crop and a favorable export outlook for 1948-49. The decrease in acreage and production for Turkish type leaf results from difficulties encountered in marketing supplies from the 1946-47 crop and uncertainty regarding future sales of Southern and Northern Rhodesian Turkish type leaf to United States importers.

Southern Rhodesian flue-cured growers have entered into an agreement with British manufacturers whereby the manufacturers undertake to purchase up to two-thirds of Southern Rhodesia's annual flue-cured production. The agreement is subject to year to year changes and it is reported that Southern Rhodesian flue-cured producers have agreed to a recent proposal by British manufacturers under which the manufacturers are to purchase at least 46 million pounds of flue-cured leaf from the 1947-48 crop in Southern Rhodesia and a minimum of 40 million pounds from each of the four succeeding crops.

The American Legation in Pretoria, South Africa, has submitted the following information regarding possible expansion in tobacco production in the South African countries. Production of flue-cured tobacco in Southern Rhodesia could be increased to 100 million pounds within three years and production of Turkish tobacco, to 6 to 7 million pounds provided marketing conditions remain favorable. In Northern Rhodesia flue-cured production could be expanded to 20 million pounds within 5 years and Turkish, to 10 million pounds if conditions remain favorable. Further expansion and output in Nyasaland is unlikely, due to competition from food crops needed to support the dense native population. Any expansion in the Union of South Africa would be restricted largely to irrigated areas. Possibilities of expansion are limited as a result of shortage of water supplies.